

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ORM-01 SR-02 EUR-08 SSO-00 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9435

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-3

TAGS: SREF, JA, UR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASYLUM BY SOVIET NATIONAL

REF: STATE 085884

1. SOVIET NATIONAL, ANATOLY YEVGENYEVICH DAVYDOV, APPEARED AT EMBASSY CHANCERY AT 2030 APRIL 15, 1975, REQUESTING ASYLUM. BORN IN LENINGRAD ON [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 28 AUG 2013], DAVYDOV, A JOURNALIST, WORKS FOR NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY. FOR DOCUMENTATION, DAVYDOV BROUGHT HIS PASSPORT, OF WHICH WE ARE NOW IN POSSESSION. HE ARRIVED IN JAPAN APRIL 12, 1975, ON A THIRTY-DAY VISA, TO WORK AT THE SOVIET INFORMATION CENTER AT THE 11TH INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO FOREIGN AUTHORITIES HAVE DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF DAVYDOV'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM, BUT SINCE HE DISAPPEARED SUDDENLY FROM TWO NOVOSTI COMRADES AND HAS NOT RETURNED TO HIS HOTEL, SOVIET AUTHORITIES PRESUMABLY ARE AWARE THAT SOMETHNG IS AMISS.

2. DAVYDOV SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM HIS NOVOSTI COMRADES THE EVENING OF APRIL 15 WITH EXPLANATION THAT HE WOULD RETURN IN FIVE MINUTES. INSTEAD, HE JOINED TWO JAPANESE NATIONALS WHOSE NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBER HE HAD FROM A MUTUAL
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JAPANESE FRIEND IN MOSCOW, AND PROCEEDED WITH THEM BY TAXI

TO EMBASSY, WHERE HE PRESENTED HIMSELF TO MARINE GUARD AND EXPLAINED HIS DESIRE TO SEEK ASYLUM. APRIL 16 AM, HE IS STILL IN CHANCERY BUT WE PLAN TO MOVE HIM TO GUARDED EMBASSY APARTMENT LATER IN DAY.

3. IN A HANDWRITTEN STATEMENT PREPARED IN RUSSIAN, DAVYDOV WROTE, "I HAVE DECIDED TO QUIT THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME FURTHER TO COMPROMISE MY OWN CONSCIENCE AND TO APPEAR AS IF I BELIEVE IN THE IDEALS WHICH I DEFINITELY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BELIEVE IN. I CANNOT PERMIT MYSELF TO THINK THAT THERE ARE ON EARTH NO PLACES WHERE PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS IN FRONT OF THOSE CLOSE TO THEM WITHOUT FEAR FOR TOMORROW...I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT SOMEWHERE ON EARTH I WILL YET BE ABLE TO SEEK OUT A SMALL CORNER WHERE THE DEGREE OF INTERFERENCE IN MAN'S INNER PEACE HAS ALREADY REACHED THE CIVILIZED LEVEL WHICH I IMAGINE." HE WANTS TO GO TO THE US.

4. DAVYDOV CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE NOT NOW NOR HAVE THERE EVER BEEN ANY CRIMINAL CHARGES PENDING AGAINST HIM. WE ALSO AWARE OF NONE.

5. ALTHOUGH HE SAYS HE WAS A KOMSOMOL MEMBER, DAVYDOV CLAIMS TO HAVE NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. HE HAS HELD NO GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH NOVOSTI.

6. DAVYDOV HAS APPROXIMATELY THIRTY DOLLARS AND STATES THAT HE HAS NO ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

7. DAVYDOV IS MARRIED TO YELENA FILIPOVNA (MAIDEN NAME [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 28 AUG 2013]) BUT SAYS HE IS IN PROCESS OF GETTING A DIVORCE. SHE AND SON, ALEXY, BY A FIRST MARRIAGE TO MAN NAMED CHERNYCHEV, LIVE IN LENINGRAD. DAVYDOV'S PARENTS AND A SISTER, HIS ONLY SIBLING, ALSO LIVE IN LENINGRAD.

8. WE ARE INFORMING FONOFF AND POLICE THAT WE HAVE DAVYDOV IN CUSTODY AND WE ARE INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITIES FOR MOVEMENT TO THIRD COUNTRY, PENDING DECISION AND ARRANGEMENTS BY USG TO ADMIT HIM TO THE US. GOJ WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESS FOR EARLY DEPARTURE FROM JAPAN AND WILL EVENTUALLY WANT

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TO ALLOW SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO SEE DAVYDOV UNDER SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF GOJ AUTHORITIES. WE AND, WE ARE SURE, GOJ WILL AVOID ALL PUBLICITY, IF POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, WE WILL DISCUSS PRESS GUIDANCE WITH FONOFF IN CASE INCIDENT BECOMES KNOWN.

9. PLEASE ADVISE.
HODGSON

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NNN

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